

# INFORMATION NOTICE

## WORKFORCE SERVICES

Number: WSIN07-52

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: SSA'S TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM – MAY 2008

The purpose of this information bulletin is to provide Local Workforce Investment Areas information about training and technical assistance opportunities for the Social Security Administration's (SSA) proposed Improvements to Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program (Ticket to Work). The Ticket to Work program provides SSA beneficiaries with disabilities expanded options for access to employment, vocational rehabilitation and other support services. The program's focus is to help beneficiaries with disabilities who desire to go to work to do so.

The SSA mails a "ticket" to eligible adults, who can then use their ticket within a range of organizations who have been accepted to be an Employment Network (EN) to obtain the services and support they need to be employed. An EN may be a single organization or a group of providers offering support and employment-related assistance. Any agency, state/political subdivision, or private entity that can provide or arrange for the delivery of services is eligible to apply to be an EN.

The SSA is proposing to revise the current Ticket to Work program rules to simplify and improve the definition of "using the ticket" and related requirements for measuring "timely progress toward self-supporting employment." The "New Ticket to Work" program Final Rule is expected to be made public sometime later this month.

The following offer several training opportunities to learn more about the New Ticket to Work program and the pending changes to the regulations. These teleconference trainings will be held in May 2008 and are provided by the National Disability Institute (NDI) and by national Ticket partners, Cherry Engineering Support Services Incorporated (CESSI) and Maximus. Local/state Workforce Investment Board and One-Stop Career Center Directors, grant managers, Disability Program Navigators (DPN) and other key staff are encouraged to participate.

- 1. Ticket 101 Training** – This training is an overview of the Ticket to Work program and pending changes to the regulations. The training will be provided by the NDI and will include a review of the "EN Estimator," a new Ticket to Work tool available on the CESSI Web site, at [www.cessi.net/en\\_estimator](http://www.cessi.net/en_estimator).

*EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Special requests for services, aids, and/or special formats need to be made by calling (916) 654-8055 (Voice). TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.*

**Teleconference Dates/Times:**

May 12, 2008, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST)

May 19, 2008, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PST

**To Register for this Training Contact:**

Laura Gleneck, Program Associate

Law, Health Policy and Disability Center

University of Iowa College of Law

Phone: (617) 489-0086; Fax: (617) 489-1374; e-mail: [laura-farah@uiowa.edu](mailto:laura-farah@uiowa.edu)

**(Name and e-mail address of participant is required when registering)**

2. **Application Walk-through** – This training is provided by CESSI and designed to simplify the EN application process, presenting step-by-step instructions. The training is available for all entities interested in becoming an EN under the Ticket to Work program and who have completed an application with the SSA.

**Teleconference Training Dates/Times:**

May 14, 2008, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PST

May 28, 2008, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PST

**To Register for this Training:**

Please call toll-free 1-877-743-8237 or e-mail CESSI at [application@cessi.net](mailto:application@cessi.net).

3. **Ticket Training Tuesday** – This training is held every Tuesday and is provided by Maximus. The training covers a variety of topics relating to Ticket to Work.

**Teleconference Training Dates/Times:**

May 13, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. PST

Topic: To Be Announced

May 20, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. PST

Topic: To Be Announced

May 27, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. PST

Topic: To Be Announced

**No Registration is Required to Participate in this Training**

The call-in number and participant code for the Tuesday training series do not change. To participate, dial toll-free **1-800-480-6924** the day of the training and give the operator the participant code “**Ticket to Work**” and the name/contact information of the participant. Teleconference materials can be downloaded from the Maximus Web site at [www.yourtickettowork.com](http://www.yourtickettowork.com).

For more information contact Felix Stump, Maximus at 1-866-968-7842 ext 3405 or TDD, 1-866-TDD2-WORK.

Over 1,000 EN and Vocational Rehabilitation representatives have participated in the Tuesday trainings. Recordings of select sessions are available on CD-ROM to ENs or those considering becoming an EN. Please e-mail CD requests to [enoperations@yourtickettowork.com](mailto:enoperations@yourtickettowork.com) Subject: “Ticket Training Tuesday CD.”

The NDI, in collaboration with the Law, Health Policy and Disability Center and the national DPN Program Office, has long supported efforts to provide quality technical assistance to the DPN Initiative. The NDI provides technical assistance for becoming an EN under Ticket to Work. Contact NDI's Elizabeth Jennings at [ejennings@ndi-inc.org](mailto:ejennings@ndi-inc.org) for more information.

/S/ BILL BURKE  
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/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER  
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